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HOME MAKERS' CHAT

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U. S. DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF INFORMATION

(Release on receipt)

SUBJECT: "Spirit Medium"--Information from the Office of Supply, Commodity Credit Corporation, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

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If you want a lift in spirit...here's a suggestion. Visit your local Community Canning Center.

For the spirit...the one in Washington, D. C. offers a delightful atmosphere housed in an old school building...with much equipment such as steam jacket aluminum kettles, exhaust boxes, electric peelers, blanching tanks, cooling retorts, and sealers.

The place is relatively cool...for it has big rooms with high ceilings...and cross-ventilation. But the most important factor for spirit, perhaps, can be found in observing people at work.

There are, of course, all kinds of women there. An older woman...wearing a black straw hat covered with fancy lace, and two pink flowers perched on top. But also wearing a simple gingham dress...and apron. She is sitting at a table contentedly peeling peaches...oblivious to all about her...including two grade school boys, who have been dragged in from summer vacation...to help peel peaches.

Or maybe your eye falls on a wealthy woman...who stands between her two maids in white starched uniforms...all intent upon dicing carrots. This trio is flanked on either side by talkative young things...wearing much jewelry...but doing their job just the same.

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Then if you inquire further...you'll find another lift for your spirits. You'll find what happens to some of the food canned here. Most of it...naturally ...goes into the pantry of the canners...but part of it is shared with less fortunate neighbors.

Ever since this center has been in operation...each woman contributes one can of food out of every ten to school lunches and to Washington, D. C. Government for use in institutions such as the Old Folks Home.

At the close of each season...the center sends a letter to the District commissioners telling how much produce they have on hand. The Commission then...after careful study...tells them how much food to send to each institution. Last year the center had a total of 9,000 cans for Washington organizations.

Although this exact system is probably not used in many centers...your own town possibly has other methods of sharing its canned goods which will make you proud.

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